

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning page 1, line 13 and ending page 3, line 3 with the following amended paragraphs:

---A wheel for a vehicle, such as an aluminum wheel for an automobile, is shipped after affixing a protective film on its surface, so that the wheel surface is protected from flaw or soil. A pressure sensitive adhesive sheet for a protective film is made from a polypropylene or polyethylene film, of which thickness is about 20 μm to 100 μm . One side of the pressure sensitive adhesive sheet is provided with an adhesive layer of about 10 μm to 30 μm thickness, which comprises acrylic or rubber pressure-sensitive adhesive. The adhesive layer is initially covered with a release sheet and protected. The release sheet is peeled off before applying the protective film to an adherend. Since pressure sensitive adhesive sheets are extremely thin, they can not retain their shape by themselves, so that distortion and wrinkles can easily be produced in affixing operations of a pressure sensitive adhesive sheet. Therefore, there is a great difficulty in carrying out the sheet-affixing operations by an automaton, so that in most cases, skilled workers still manually carry out the above sheet-affixing operations. However, in recent years, there have been some attempts to provide an automaton for affixing pressure sensitive adhesive sheet to a wheel. For example, such a system is disclosed in Japanese Laid-open patent publications (KOKAI) Nos. ~~7-323963~~ 7-323953 and 7-40434.

The system disclosed in the above Japanese Laid-Open patent publications Nos. ~~7-323963~~ 7-323953 and 7-40434 are large and expensive systems comprising a conveying system, and are exclusively optimized for a certain type of workpiece, so that the devices are only

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adequate when affixing pressure sensitive adhesive sheets to mass produced products of the same type. It is difficult to use the above systems for applications that include wheels having various configurations and sizes in the same line, because the above systems require alterations of the line when the shape or size of a wheel manufactured in the line is changed. This leads increases in expense and down time. Therefore, when wheels with different sizes or shapes are required to be dealt with in a line, the sheet-affixing operations still rely upon manual operation by skilled workers.---